

High Level Meeting on National Drought Policy 11-15 March 2013, Geneva



Towards more drought resilience: Reducing the human made drought – tapping existing knowledge

Wednesday, 13 March 2013, 12:30 - 13:30, CIG Room 3

Thematic focus

The side event will focus on strengthening the resilience to drought and disaster through Sustainable Land Management (SLM). Land users experiences on resilient land management practices will be highlighted and the importance of up-scaling these experiences shown. The key question is how these experiences on resilient land management can be linked and integrated into the National Drought Policy.

A video trailer will be shown followed by a short introduction to the key issues for the panel discussion with invited participants, and a general discussion with the audience.

1. **A video trailer** (5 - 7 min) "*drought and disaster: building resilience – people with greener land*" will be shown.
The main message of the video trailer is:
 - If people around the globe manage land in a sustainable way and share their experiences, resilience to climate change, drought and disaster can be built.
 - National drought policies must promote Sustainable Land Management to create greener land on our planet.
2. **Presentation on key statements for coping with drought and disaster**
by Dr. Hanspeter Liniger, WOCAT director (10 min)
 - Resilient land use is the key – a wealth of experiences exists and there is the need to tap them.
 - These innovative SLM technologies and approaches in view of food security, climate change resilience, and disaster risk reduction have to be shared and spread to areas badly affected by "drought and disaster".
 - Standardized innovative tools for SLM decisions support and knowledge management at local and national level are needed.
3. **Panel discussion**
Key questions for discussion for all panelists are:
 - To what extend is there agreement that strengthening resilient land management practices should be an important pillar of national drought policies?
 - How can land users experiences on resilient land management practices be up-scaled and how can these experiences contribute more effectively to National Drought Policies?
 - How can efforts be joined to include existing knowledge on resilient land management into drought policies?

- Specific question for UNCCD (respectively SDC):
 - How do you see the role of UNCCD (SDC) in building on land users' experiences more systematically? Is it important for UNCCD (SDC), and what is its mandate?
- Specific question for WMO:
 - How do you see the role of WMO in building on land users' experiences more systematically? Is it important for WMO and what is its mandate?
 - How can WMO support land users in coping with drought risks?

Panel

Moderated by Markus Giger (University of Bern, Centre for Development and Environment)

Panelist:

- **Yves Guinand**, UNCCD Focal Point for Switzerland, UNCCD COP Bureau Member, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- **Victor Castillo**, Knowledge Management Science and Technology (KMST) Unit of the UNCCD Secretariat
- **Mannava V.K. Sivakumar**, Consultant, World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- **Hanspeter Liniger**, WOCAT, Centre for Development and Environment, University of Berne

4. A general discussion with the audience

Potential contribution to the HMNDP

The side event will bring together a multi-stakeholder group involved in SLM. The potential for tackling droughts and man-made disasters and by building a platform for exchange of innovations and proven solutions for SLM will be explored. The overall goal is to encourage joint efforts to include existing knowledge on resilient land management into drought policies.

